

FILMY WHITE GOWNS

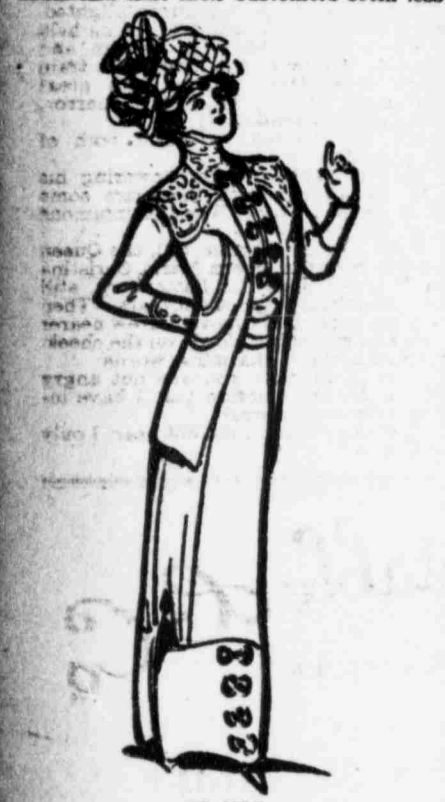
Spring Creations of Lace, Net and Mouseline.

DELIGHTS OF NEW LINENS

The Range of Weave and Hue Never More Beautiful.

Paris Floods May Interfere With the Early Fashions—Excellences of the Lingerie and Lace Models for the Riviera—Lingerie Frocks With No Lingerie to Them—Some Accompanied by Superb Coats of Heavier Laces—Advice as to Tub Frocks—The Yellow Linens Especially Attractive and Fashionable—Collarless Neck Effects Many Among the Linen Gowns.

The wide diversity in the winter modes and the absence of hard and fast rules concerning sleeves and skirts and coats have apparently given women confidence, for, tailors and dressmakers say that they are booking more early orders than usual and that their customers seem less



uncertain about spring fashion developments than is ordinarily the case before the Parisian openings.



novelties, but on every hand now is heard the supposition that flood conditions in Paris and the attendant demoralization there will put back perceptibly the blossoming of the spring modes. Manufacturers, designers, work folk of all kinds are behind hand with their work just at the rush season and there will be a mighty



scourrying in the French dressmaking world for the next month or two.

The models that have already come over or that have been copied by New York makers from French sketches or models promise pleasant things for the later season. Just now we are not getting the extremes, the bizarre new things. They are launched later, and then still later comes a second wave of conse-



TWO IRISH LACE COSTUMES, WITH BANDS OF EMBROIDERED MOUSSELINE AND WITH A COAT STREWED WITH JETS.

tiam, a toning down of the too elegant, a selection of the best of what has been offered, a survival of the fittest.

For the present the makers seem content with turning out delightful little street costumes, general utility frocks of simple smartness, pretty linens, voiles, foulards, &c., sure to be useful and practical, no matter what else may be ordered.

Princess lines are best adapted to this type of model, though the sheerer and less clinging lingerie models show a decided leaning toward the one piece blouse and skirt lines and to gridded effects. You see these latter ideas developed too in the heavily embroidered and heavy lace trimmed models, but they are hardly so successful as the long unbroken lines.

Sheer robes of mouseline or linen,



WHITE LINEN.

later. An exception to the rule is to be found in the new lingerie and lace models prepared for the Riviera season and in most cases extravagantly elaborate, as the modish lingerie frock is prone to be nowadays. So much hand work is lavished upon frocks of this type that the French models are very long in preparation and the buyers must place their orders from season to season if they are to secure the work of the best makers.

Already every importer is showing wonderful confections of this type, composed of laces, embroidered nets, silk mouselines, mulls, batistes, linens, &c. Often five or six different materials are combined in the one frock called by courtesy lingerie, though the lingerie materials may play a small part in the finished whole.

And then there are scores of filmy white frocks which while following the general lines of the lingerie models include no lingerie material at all—frocks like the exquisite one sketched for the central cut, which are built up of hand embroidered white silk mouseline and the hand embroidered net and laces.

Irish lace, which showed signs of waning vogue, comes boldly to the front again in connection with such frocks, but the Italian laces have an increasing vogue, and where expense need not be considered real Venetian plays a considerable part in these superb frocks of sheer white.

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ROSE LINEN.

fine lace and hand embroidery are often accompanied by superb coats of heavier lace, usually Irish, this heavy lace in small quantities being also mingled with the fine lace of the robe. A striking model of this class shown in a Fifth avenue shop has a novel feature in the studding of the handsome Irish lace coat with brilliant cut jet disks, and the idea, though bizarre, works out more attractively than you would imagine.

As for the useful little lingerie frocks that will actually stand tubbing, they are already with us in great quantities, and though the really dainty models are not extraordinarily cheap they are not at all in the same class with the more go-

geous frocks such as are illustrated in the central group. For the average woman they are infinitely more desirable, and luckily even the home seamstress can if clever achieve excellent results along this line.

Cheap one piece models are offered in the shops and are often altogether admirable in design, having more cachet than that same home seamstress is likely to obtain; but the difficulty is that these pretty, effective models are in cheap materials and are usually so carelessly put together that they quickly go to pieces with laundering or even with ordinary wear.

If you can afford the initial expense it is nice and in the long run economical to buy the more expensive frock of the same class made by some one of the little establishments that specialize in such tub frocks and in lingerie blouses, or to buy good materials and have them made up carefully and conscientiously under your own supervision. Handkerchief linen, the French linen, while expensive gives better service than any other very fine and dainty lingerie material and is



OF PONGEE.

a better investment than batiste or mull, but either of these latter materials makes up attractively, and the fine cotton etamines and cotton crepes are also desirable and will be much used.

There are plenty of little shops in unpretentious quarters now where such simple one piece lingerie frocks, hand made, trimmed in valenciennes, a little real cluny or Irish and perhaps a very little hand embroidery will be made to order for from \$40 to \$50, and though this may seem to some women a pretty high price for a very simple tub frock it must be remembered that the simplicity is of a very dainty kind and that the frock will serve many summer purposes and stand frequent journeys to the laundry. From this price the well made lingerie frock of good materials mounts in price until it reaches giddy heights.

The linen frocks come next on the list of serviceable tub frocks, and here you find temptation on every hand. Such delectable little frocks they are, now that weavers and dyers in combination have achieved altogether desirable things in linen. The range of colors this season is more beautiful than ever before and the weaves are amazingly varied, though most of them have the softness which gives them the semblance of the hand woven linens and makes them both more beautiful and more serviceable than the stiffer, shinier surfaced linens of an earlier day.

Some of the new weaves have a decided lustre, but it is not the old shine. Rather it is a mercurizing which gives to the soft, loose woven linen the appearance of a tussor. The makers vow that this lustre remains intact after repeated launderings, but that must be determined by experience.

There are all sorts of diagonal weave linens, embroidered linens, bordered linens, striped linens, checked linens, dotted linens, corded linens, &c., but the linen par excellence is the soft fluted weave of hand woven aspect, and in this one finds innumerable lovely colorings. One of the most prominent and popular color lines runs through the gold and buff and citron and corn color tones into the light ecru and natural tones at one extreme and into the khakis, ripe

peach and various light browns at the darker extreme.

Such cool, soft, lovely yellow tones have never before been seen in linens and though they echo hues popular in winter materials, they come with a freshness and a surprise in the linens and in the cottons, where also they hold a conspicuous place.

A house whose linen frocks and suits are noted is showing a large number of charming simple models in these yellow linens, usually with touches of white for relief, a little white band embroidery, a collar of embroidered white linen or pique, a tiny collarless guimpe of white pique set with rows of very fine yellow soutache matching the linen, a collar and frill of lingerie and lace or some such becoming device. A note of black, too, is most effective on these yellow tones and is usually introduced in a cravat or tiny bow, though in coat suits the collar and cuffs or merely the collar may be faced with black and a note of black may be introduced in the making of the buttons.

A little black enters too into many of the white linen and natural linen coat suits and one piece frocks and is usually very effective, but unless removable it makes cleansing instead of laundering a necessity. Cleansing is the better method for the linen coat suit in any event, for few are the laundresses who can do up such a suit without destroying its shapeliness, but a cleanser is not always available at short notice and it is difficult to get much service out of a light hued linen unless it can be put frequently into the tub.

The blues are to be immensely popular among linens and are always practical because save in the very light tones they do not soil quickly and the blue dyes stand the onslaught of the laundress more sturdily than most dyes do.

The dark tones of blue are particularly lovely this season. Never before have the manufacturers obtained such results, and we should see much of these darker blue linens, relieved and given coolness by a touch of white. A long line of pink and rose linens challenges admiration and there are some delightfully cool, soft greens and grays.

Collarless neck effects are many among the linens, but even where the model is of this type it is usually possible to add a tiny guimpe of lingerie or lace for the woman to whom the exposed throat is unbecoming.

A plaited frill of lawn or net or lace such as will be seen in two simple little models which are sketched here often finishes the collarless neck of the French frock and is more generally becoming than a more severe finish, while a sheer guimpe is quite possible in connection with it.

The plaited frill in one form or another will have much to do with giving a festive and dainty air to simple summer frocks, and one purveyor of such accessories says that she is having many demands for fine pretty frills unaltered, her customers contending that they have great difficulty in getting the plaited frills properly laundered and that the unaltered frills if fine enough will give the desired effect.

Now here is work for any woman who has the slightest cleverness with a needle and wants to pick up work. Hand made frills of fine materials are expensive even when of the simplest sort, and the coarse machine made variety fall in the essential mission of the frill, but any woman can make adorable little frills by hand, finishing them with fine narrow lace or lace and insertion, perhaps, merely hemstitching them, and a goodly supply of such things will go far toward giving the simplest of summer morning frocks an air of smartness.

The side frill which fastens in under the middle front plait of a frock or blouse is much in demand, and a double frill mounted on a central line of narrow real Irish lace or fine embroidery is effective. It may be headed by a tiny cravat bow of black or it may be combined with a simple stock of fine tucking and lace.

The plaited frills falling from the throat line and not running down the blouse front are a trifle more difficult to make if you attempt any of the complicated designs, but some of the simpler designs are easily copied. The shops abound in delectable frills, stocks, bows, collars, &c., but the difficulty is that the fine and dainty sort is usually elaborate and expensive, while the inexpensive kind is likely to be coarse and pretentious instead of fine and simple.

Tailored frocks continue to appear in spring materials and on tentative spring lines, and it is quite safe to buy such a suit now provided you choose a somewhat conservative model at a good shop. The shortened coat rules and the skirts cling over the hips, and while not skimping at the bottom tend to dip inward around the ankles and feet after the fashion familiarized this winter.

Usually this effect is attained merely by the elimination of drop skirt, petticoat or any support at the bottom, but some models go further and follow the late winter idea of making the bottom of the skirt narrower than the upper portion; that is, of drawing the skirt in in some manner well below the knees.

The three French models pictured here illustrate clever methods of handling this idea, and we shall probably see more of the fancy when the spring model deluge begins, but it is extreme, and despite all its grace, hampering free movement if carried far, and certainly giving absurd lines to the silhouette of the average woman.

The coats of the three models whose skirts, in a greater or less degree conform to the fad just mentioned are all extremely good, the two belted models being among the best looking things of the kind that we have seen so far. Both were made by a New York tailor from Parisian sketches, and the Russian model being in serge develops charmingly in linen. One of the lovely yellow linens already described with white braiding, white pearl buttons, black cravat and either a

linen belt or a black patent leather belt would work out well.

Many of the attractive suits are in the dark blues, one of the best shades being a deep, clear sapphire which is dark and soft and yet full of color and lovely with white. The darker navy and brown blues are good too, and some very jaunty short coat models in these very dark tones just in from Paris are brightened by smart little collars of linen, rose or dull blue or yellow, embroidered in white, and by quite large round bullet buttons of bright silver.

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

Mrs. T. F. Beal, a rural mail carrier of the Burbank district in California, goes over her twenty-five mile route in an automobile which she bought with her own earnings.

Selma Lagerlof, the Swedish writer to whom the Nobel prize in literature was awarded this year, will devote a part of the money to the purchase of a home on the Marbarka estate, where she was born. The house which she will buy was built by her grandfather and through reverses fell into the hands of strangers, from whom she will buy it.

Mrs. Belva Lockwood has written to President Taft asking his opinion of her plan to devote the Nobel peace prize fund, which two years ago was awarded to Mr. Roosevelt, to aiding the striking shirtwaist girls in New York and Philadelphia. Mr. Roosevelt turned the money over to a committee on industrial peace and Mrs. Lockwood is trying to interest this committee in the shirtwaist makers.

Mrs. Margaret D. Lyons has been appointed matron of the State school for the blind at Baton Rouge, La., by Gov. Saunders. Mrs. Lyons has served as matron in the Mansfield Female College and in the Dixie Academy, besides filling similar post in the Protestant orphan asylum in New Orleans.

Miss I. L. Moorman is the president of the Negro Women's Business League of New York city. The league is soon to hold a meeting in the hope of forming a national organization of colored women in the interest of votes for women. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont and Mrs. Ella H. Crosssett are among the speakers scheduled for the meeting which is to be held in Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Mrs. Hannah Jacober, a widow and the mother of three children, has just been graduated at the Waller High School in Chicago. During the three years she has attended the high school Mrs. Jacober had a hard struggle against poverty and misfortune. To provide for herself and her two children, her husband and one child having died, she kept a boarding house, working early and late. She has already passed some of the entrance examinations to the Chicago Normal School, and when she has completed her course there she hopes to become a public school teacher in Chicago.

Mrs. George Phillips, secretary of the New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, has just issued her annual report. She calls attention to the fact that the association wrote Gov. Hughes and Mayor McClellan that the appointment of women on public boards would be the safest way of utilizing their capacities and that the Governor placed fifteen women on the State boards and Mayor McClellan appointed four on the Board of Education. She also says that seven pamphlets have been added to the association's literature during the year and names Mrs. Humphry Ward and the Countess of Jersey as recent additions to its membership. Mentioning the fact that Mrs. Otto Kilian, who went to England last year to investigate conditions, had returned, the report sets forth that she found many able women resisting the forces of the suffragists in that country.

Miss Emma C. Sicks recently appeared before the House Committee on Agriculture and asked that a bureau of domestic science be established. She also asked that an appropriation of \$20,000 be distributed among ten of the best schools of domestic science in agricultural colleges to enable them to engage more thoroughly in research and experimental work.

Miss Mary Hayden of Dublin, recently appointed professor of history in the Dublin College of the new Catholic University of Ireland, is one of the leaders in the Gaelic revival. Her appointment was obtained by a competitive examination. The Catholic University of Ireland is to be educational in all its branches, and among Miss Hayden's pupils will be men in holy orders.

Mrs. Margaret C. Munns of Seattle, Wash., has been appointed a member of the commission whose duty it is to investigate the condition of children's homes, home finding associations and similar societies. The board was provided for by an act of the last Legislature and the appointments were made by Judge Frater of the Juvenile Court of Seattle.

Estelle Randolph has been appointed by the county superintendent of Henrico county, Va., as supervisor of manual training in all the negro schools in the county. This work is carried on under the direction of the James Negro Rural School Fund. Miss Randolph has taught manual training for more than twenty-five years.

The Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women has offered two prizes for the best essays on "The Case Against Woman's Suffrage." The competition is open to all women in the junior or senior classes of colleges in Massachusetts. For the best essay \$100 will be paid and \$50 for the second best.

Chicago Woman's Ambition.

From the Chicago Tribune. "I wish I had been born a man; it is the one regret of my life," declared Mrs. Lillian Duncan, president of the Political Equality League, before the members of the literary round table of the Chicago Culture Club yesterday afternoon. "I am tired of being a woman, of having to beg for better conditions, of putting up with a pretentious gown and smile in order to influence some Alderman to see things in the light he should see them and as women see them."

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